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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/708,770	11/07/2000	James E. Obert	10001609-1	2515

22879 7590 05/27/2003

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/708,770

Applicant(s)

OBERT ET AL.

Examiner

King Y. Poon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: remote diagnostics center website 240 in page 7 line 10 should be remote diagnostics center website 246, see fig. 2 and page 11, line 11. 240 in the specification is a diagnostics module, see page 6, line 25, and fig. 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The change made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999

(AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

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Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 16-17, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanson (US 6,148,346).

Regarding claim 1: Hanson teaches a system, (fig. 1) comprising: a workstation (computer 25, 26, and 23, fig.1 of company A, form a workstation) having one or more computers; one or more printing devices (27, 31, figure 1, column 4, lines 18-19) connected to at least one computer (PC 23, fig. 1) in the workstation; and a remote (company A and B are remotely connected to each other through Internet 22, column 4, lines 15-20, fig. 1) diagnostic center (host computer system with an independent server connected by a LAN, column 4, lines 40-45, e.g., PC 35 and server 40, located at company B, fig. 1) configured to communicate (column 4, line 10-15, host computer is operating with an operating system to communicate with the printing devices/peripherals connected anywhere in the network show in fig. 1, column 4, lines 20-26) with the one or more printing devices and execute a printing device management application (printer maintenance menu of GUI object 52, column 7, lines 45-50, column 5, lines 12-14, fig. 8J) to obtain diagnostic data from the one or more printing devices; wherein the remote diagnostic center (from fig. 1, the system is divided into two workstations, company A and company B, each workstation is connected by Internet 22, Host computer and server running operating system from A can access any printing devices/peripherals located in B and vice versa, column 2, lines 8-15, column 4, lines 10-20) is located outside (through Internet) the workstation.

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Regarding claim 2: Hanson teaches wherein at least one of the one or more printing devices (printer 27, fig. 1) is directly connected to a workstation computer (PC 23, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3: Hanson teaches wherein at least one of the one or more printing devices (printer 29, fig. 1, column 4, line 19) is connected to the workstation through a local network. (Intranet, column 4, line 18)

Regarding claim 4. Hanson teaches wherein: the system comprises at least two printing devices; (e.g., printer 27 and printer 29, fig. 1) a first printing device (printer 27, fig. 1) is directly connected to a workstation computer (PC 23, fig. 1); and a second printing device (printer 29, fig. 1, column 4, line 19) is connected to the workstation through a local network. (Intranet, column 4, line 18)

Regarding claim 5: Hanson teaches wherein the remote diagnostic center (host computer system with an independent server connected by a LAN, column 4, lines 40-45, e.g., PC 35 and server 40, located at company B, fig. 1) further comprises a printer information management system (dynamic device driver system, column 4, lines 10-15, column 2, lines 8-9) that communicates (all communication between the host computer in company B and the printers in A has to communicate through a firewall/proxy server, fig.1, column 6, lines 55-62) with the workstation (proxy server, column 6, lines 55-67; proxy server of company A, is a computer which is part of the workstation of company A) through the Internet (column 6, line 57, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 7: Hanson teaches wherein the printer information management system (dynamic device driver system, column 4, lines 10-20, column 2, lines 7-8) is accessible by two or

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more concurrent users. (Column 4, lines 10-15, teaches the dynamic device driver system component are located at all devices of fig. 1. Since the devices of fig. 1, e.g., PC 23, and PC 35, are users of the system and dynamic driver system components are part of the dynamic device driver system, the dynamic device driver system is accessible by two or more concurrent users)

Regarding claim 8: Hanson teaches wherein the remote diagnostic center is further configured to obtain the diagnostic data only after receiving authorization (firewall, column 6, lines 55-62) from a workstation computer. (Proxy server of A, column 6, line 56)

Regarding claim 16: Hanson teaches a method, comprising: initiating (execution, column 4, line 64) a printer information management system (dynamic device driver system, column 4, lines 10-15, column 4, lines 60-65, column 2, lines 8-9) from a computer (e.g., PC 23, fig. 1, column 4, lines 10-20) of a workstation (computer 25, 28, and 23 forms a workstation, fig. 1) having one or more computers and one or more printers (printer 27, 29-31, fig. 1) connected (directly or by network, column 4, lines 15-20) to the workstation computers, (PC 23, server 25, fig. 1) the printer information management system (dynamic device driver system, column 4, lines 10-15, column 4, lines 60-65, column 2, lines 8-9) obtaining diagnostic data (column 7, lines 41-50) from the one or more printers; and granting permission (data passing through firewall must has permission from a proxy server, column 6, lines 55-62) to a remote user (a host that is remote from a server, e.g., server of column 4, line 42, within the workstation containing part of the dynamic device driver, column 4, lines 39-45) to control the printer information management system (e.g., the device driver 34, column 4, line 46; controlling device driver 34 is the same as

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controlling the printer information management system because device driver 34 is part of the printer information management system) to access the diagnostic data (dynamic device driver is used to access diagnostic data from the printers, column 4, lines 10-20, column 7, lines 40-50) from the one or more printers (e.g., printer 30, 31, fig. 1); and wherein at least one printer (printer 27, fig. 1) is directly connected to a workstation computer (PC 23, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 17: Hanson teaches wherein the granting permission to a remote user further comprises granted permission to a remote user to access the diagnostic data through an Internet connection (Internet, column 6, lines 55-62).

Regarding claim 19: Hanson teaches displaying the diagnostic data (fig. 8J, column 7, lines 45-50) after the remote user gains access to the diagnostic data. Retaining concurrent access to the displayed diagnostic data is an inherent property of display because a display on a computer screen displaying diagnostic data would allow multiple users to view the displayed diagnostic data concurrently.

Regarding claim 20: Hanson teaches wherein the printer information management system (dynamic device driver system, column 4, lines 10-15, column 4, lines 60-65, column 2, lines 8-9) is network-based, (located everywhere in the network, column 4, lines 10-20) and the initiating further comprises launching the printer information management system through a network connection (e.g., PC 23, column 4, lines 10-20).

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4. Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wood et al (US 6,453,127).

Regarding claim 9: Wood teaches a method, comprising: communicating (computer 11 is communicating with computers 30, fig. 1, fig. 2, column 5, lines 3-25, column 4, line 53-54) with a workstation (all three computer 30 shown in fig. 1) having one or more computers and at least one printing device (copier printer 15, fig. 1) connected to a workstation computer (30 fig. 1); receiving diagnostic data (column 5, lines 30-33) from each printing device (each of the computer 30 is running a web server software, column 2, line 53, that provide diagnostic data of the printer connected to the computer 30, to a web browser, column 5, lines 30-33, running in computer 11, column 5, lines 2-25) of the workstation wherein at least one printing device is directly connected (directly connected, column 2, lines 53-57) to a workstation computer.

Regarding claim 10: Wood teaches wherein the workstation (three computers 30, fig. 1) includes at least two printing devices, (three copier/printer 15, fig. 1) and at least one printing device is connected to the workstation through a local network. (Intranet, column 2, lines 50-57)

Regarding claim 12: Wood teaches wherein the communicating further comprises communicating with the workstation through the Internet. (Column 2, line 52)

Regarding claim 13: Wood teaches wherein diagnostic software (the software that contains diagnostic data, Java applet, column 5, lines 5-25, column 5, lines 30-35) is stored on an Internet website (the series of files that include user interface display screen pages in "applets", located in a web server for establishing a program in the user's computer, column 5, lines 5-15,

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through the use of web browser) and is concurrently accessible by more than one user (a socket is provided for each user connected to the web server for clear communication with the respective user, column 5, lines 45-50; e.g., communicating Java applet, column 5, lines 5-25. In other words, more than one user could concurrently connect to the web server for communication by connecting through their own socket. Therefore, the Java applet, containing diagnostic data, is concurrently accessible by more than one user).

Regarding claim 15: Wood teaches wherein the printing devices (three copier/printers, fig. 1) further comprise printers. (Marking engine 25, fig. 2)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 6, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson as applied to claims 1, 5, 16, 17 above, and further in view of Wood et al. (US 6,453,127).

Regarding claim 6: Hanson teaches wherein the printer information management system is stored on a server (the driver portion 34 belongs to the printer information management system and is stored in a server, column 4, lines 36-42).

Hanson does not teach wherein the printer information management system is stored on an Internet website.

Wood, in the same area of transmitting Java applet (see column 5, lines 5-15, Wood et al and column 4, lines 60-65, Hanson) to be executed by a user's computer (computer 30, fig. 1) of displaying status/diagnostic data in the user's computer (column 5, lines 25-35), teaches to store

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the Java applet on an Internet (column 2, line 67) website located in a server. (The series of files that include user interface display screen pages in “applets”, located in a web server, is a website, for establishing a program in the user’s computer, column 5, lines 5-15)

Since the printer information management system (driver portion 34 is part of the dynamic device driver system/printer information management system) of Hanson, is stored in a server within the Internet, (column 4, lines 39-42), contains Java applet programs (column 4, lines 57-67, column 5, lines 12-23) to be executed by the host computer to display printer diagnostic data (column 7, lines 42-50), it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hanson’s system to include: wherein the printer information management system/driver portion 34 is stored on an Internet website.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hanson’s system by the teaching of Wood et al. because of the following reasons: (a) most computers connected on Internet communicate with, and access data from websites located in server computer(s); storing the dynamic device driver system in a website would allow the dynamic device driver system of Hanson to be widely used in the Internet system by all users; and (b) it would have allowed a service person to gain access of the diagnostic data of a printer of Hanson from anywhere in the world as long as he has a computer connected to Internet.

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Regarding claim 18: Hanson teaches wherein at least a portion of the printer information management system is stored on a server (the driver portion 34 is part of the printer information management system and is stored in a server, column 4, lines 36-42).

Hanson does not teach wherein at least a portion of the printer information management system is stored on an Internet website and is concurrently accessible by two or more users.

Wood, in the same area of transmitting Java applet (see column 5, lines 5-15, Wood et al and column 4, lines 60-65, Hanson) to be executed by a user's computer of displaying status/diagnostic data in the user's computer (column 5, lines 25-35), teaches to store the Java applet on an Internet (column 2, line 67) website located in a server, (the series of files that include user interface display screen pages in "applets", located in a web server, is a website, for establishing a program in the user's computer, column 5, lines 5-15), and is concurrently accessible by two or more users (a socket is provided for each user connected to the web server for clear communication with the respective user, column 5, lines 45-50; e.g., communicating Java applet, column 5, lines 5-25. In other words, more than one user could concurrently connect to the web server for communication by connecting through their own socket. Therefore, the Java applet, containing diagnostic data, is concurrently accessible by more than one user).

Since the printer information management system (driver portion 34 is part of the dynamic device driver system/printer information management system) of Hanson, is stored in a server within the Internet, (column 4, lines 39-42), contains Java applet programs (column 4, lines 57-67, column 5, lines 12-23) to be executed by the host computer to display printer diagnostic data

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(column 7, lines 42-50), it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hanson's system to include: wherein at least a portion of the printer information management system/driver portion 34 is stored on an Internet website and is concurrently accessible by two or more users.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hanson's system by the teaching of Wood et al. because of the following reasons: (a) most computers connected on Internet communicate with, and access data from websites located in server computer(s); storing the dynamic device driver system in a website would allow the dynamic device driver system of Hanson to be widely used in the Internet system by all users; (b) it would have allowed a service person to gain access of the diagnostic data of a printer of Hanson from anywhere in the world as long as he has a computer connected to Internet; (c) concurrently accessible by users would have allowed the system to function properly; for example, when one user is using the system for a day, all the other users cannot use the system for that day without concurrently accessible by the users.

6. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Webb et al (US 5,727,135).

Regarding claim 11: Wood teaches the diagnostic data from the one or more printing devices can be viewed from a workstation computer (column 7, lines 10-15, column 4, lines 1-5) or on a remote computer (column 5, lines 30-35). Wood further teaches the diagnostic display at

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a local computer (computer 30, column 7, lines 9-11) serves as a display panel for the copier/printer.

Wood does not teach simultaneously viewing diagnostic data from the one or more printing devices on a workstation computer and on a remote computer.

Webb, in the same area of viewing diagnostic data (column 4, lines 1-3) of a printer (column 3, line 61) from a remote (by a of network, abstract) computer (host, column 3, line 67) teaches simultaneously (real time, column 3, line 58) viewing the diagnostic data at the printer's display panel (column 4, line 1) and the remote computer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wood's diagnostic data viewing method to include: simultaneously viewing diagnostic data from the one or more printing devices on a workstation computer and on a remote computer.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wood's diagnostic data viewing method by the teaching of Webb because (a) it would have allowed users, without leaving the remote computer, with the ability to access the copier/printer's diagnostic data, to the extent that a person could if physically presented at the site of the printer, as taught by Webb at column 3, lines 62-65; and (b) it would have allowed users to monitor the printer both locally and remotely.

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7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Hanson (US 6,148,346).

Regarding claim 14: Wood does not teach receiving permission from a workstation computer before receiving diagnostic data from a printing device.

Hanson, in the same area of viewing diagnostic data, of a printer, from a remote computer, teaches receiving permission from a workstation computer (data passing through firewall must have permission from a proxy server, column 6, lines 55-62) before receiving diagnostic data (column 5, lines 34-40, column 4, lines 58-67) from a printing device (column 4, lines 15-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wood's diagnostic data receiving method to include: receiving permission from a workstation computer before receiving diagnostic data from a printing device.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wood's diagnostic data receiving method by the teaching of Hanson because of the following reasons: (a) it would have protected the system against external threats, such as hackers, coming from another network; and (b) it would have reduced traffic in the network by using permission for receiving diagnostic data.

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Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kim et al (US 6,473,788) teaches a method of remote maintenance and servicing of network peripheral device over WWW.

Motoyama (US 5,909,493) teaches a method and system for diagnosis and control of machines.

Morgan et al (US 5,220,674) teaches a method a system for forwarding printer status message to selected destinations.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892

May 19, 2003

King Y. Poon